8. The training of veterinary personnel in preparedness, control and containment started in October 2005 at regional level is continuing. The training was shifted to State level basis by the Government of India from September 2006. More than 30% of the veterinary workforce under employment of Government has been trained as Master-Trainers for further field trainings.

9. A National workshop on Preparedness, Control and Containment of Avian Influenza was organized at Pune during May, 2007 and recently a Regional Workshop of the North-Eastern States (Sikkim, Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and West Bengal) was organized at Kolkata by Government of India from 26-28th July 2007.

National Bamboo Mission Programme

598. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) how far it is a fact that Government are about to launch National Bamboo Mission Programme after China's success;

(b) if so, whether this mission will be able to generate employment opportunities especially in Assam where the availability of Bamboo is plenty;

(c) whether Government have developed the necessary infrastructures to fulfil the mission; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Government of India has launched the National Bamboo Mission Programme in the country during 2006-07, including Assam. The Mission is envisaged to generate 64.1 million man days of work in the plantation and nursery sectors in the country. Besides this, there will be employment generation in both skilled and unskilled segments in the handicraft sector in the States, including Assam.

(c) and (d) At the central level, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation has constituted National Apex Committee, National Steering Committee, Working sub-Groups, National Bamboo Cell and Bamboo Technical Support Group to implement and monitor the progress of National Bamboo Mission.

In so far as State of Assam is concerned, the State Level Bamboo Steering Committee has been constituted to implement the National Bamboo Mission in the State. The Forest Development Agency (FDAs) have also been identified for the development of plantation and nurseries in the Forest Area. However, the Bamboo Development Agency (BDAs) are in the process of formation to look after the implementation works in the Non-Forest Area in the State.

National action plan for farmers

599. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have chalked out any national action plan for farmers of the country to save them from drought/floods/rising cost of inputs, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the details of financial allocation made by Government for this purpose during the current financial year 2007-08, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) In the event of natural calamities, such as, drought/flood, relief is provided under Calamity Relief Fund and the National Calamity Contingency Fund. Calamity Relief Fund is a fund available with the State Government to provide immediate relief. For the year 2007-08, allocation of Rs.4258.85 crore is available to which the share of Central Government is Rs. 3194.14 crore and the share of State Government is Rs. 1064.68 crore. State-wise allocation is enclosed as Statement (*See* below). For severe natural calamities where the relief expenditure cannot be accommodated within the CRF, additional funding from the Central Government is provided under the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). During the year 2007-08 an amount of Rs.13.51 crore had already been released upto 9th July, 2007. Expenditure on relief helps small and marginal farmers to take up re-sowing of crops through inputs subsidy, apart from obtaining wage employment.

In addition, Reserve Bank of India has issued standing guidelines to the banks to provide the financial assistance to the farmers affected by natural calamities. These guidelines envisages, *inter-alia*, conversion/rescheduling of loans in the event of natural calamity for periods ranging from 3 to 9 years depending upon the successive crop failure/intensity of damage of crops, sanction of fresh crop loans to affected farmers, sanction of consumption loans and not to charge penal interest in respect of current dues in default. The schemes and initiatives of Government to take care of the problem of rising cost of inputs, *inter-alia*, include fixation of Minimum Support Price taking into account the report of Commission of Agriculture Cost and Price, promotion of organic farming, integrated nutrient management and integrated pest management, subsidizing the cost of fertilizers and reduction of rate of interest on crop loan to farmers upto Rs. 3 lakh at 7% per annum.

Statement

Calamity relief fund provision for 2007-08

Sl. No.	State	Total	Centre's Share	State's Share
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	379.35	284.51	94.84
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	29.97	22.48	7.49
3.	Assam	204.48	153.36	51.12
4.	Bihar	157.74	118.31	39.44
5.	Chhattisgarh	118.35	88.76	29.59
6.	Goa	2.32	1.74	0.58
7.	Gujarat	271.22	203.41	67.8
8.	Haryana	137.13	102.85	34.28
9.	Himachal Pradesh	106.65	79.99	26.66
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	91.58	68.68	22.89

1	2	3	4	5
11.	Jharkhand	133.53	100.15	33.38
12.	Karnataka	126.41	94.81	31.6
13.	Kerala	94.26	70.7	23.57
14.	Madhya Pradesh	269.29	201.97	67.32
15.	Maharashtra	245.75	184.31	61. 44
16.	Manipur	5.89	4.42	1.47
17.	Meghalaya	11.95	8.96	2.99
18.	Mizoram	6.97	5.23	1.74
19.	Nagaland	4.05	3.03	1.01
20.	Orissa	319.38	239.53	79.84
21.	Punjab	160.99	120.74	40.25
22.	Rajasthan	458.25	343.68	114.56
23.	Sikkim	18.57	13.93	4.64
24.	Tamil Nadu	230.51	172.88	57.63
25.	Tripura	13.61	10.21	3.4
26.	Uttar Pradesh	313.45	235.1	78.36
27.	Uttaranchal	98.58	73.93	24.64
28.	West Bengal	248.62	186.47	62.15
	TOTAL:	4258.9	3194.14	1064.68

New initiatives in wheat policy

600. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRA SEKHAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a High Level Commission on Long Term Grain Policy of Government (Abhijit Sen Committee) has stressed that the nation embark on new initiatives in wheat policy taking into consideration increasing consumption thereof in the country coupled with environmental problems due to which its production per hectare is declining; and

(b) if so, by when a new wheat policy is likely to be evolved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The High Level Committee on Long Term Grain Policy constituted by Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, in their report submitted in July, 2002, mentioned that the total food and feed demand for cereals in 2020 works out to 260 million tonnes. The Committee also observed that India will be able to produce enough cereals to meet the food and feed demand of around 260 million tonnes of cereals by 2020 provided there is adequate increase in factor productivity through continuous genetic improvement and greater efficiency in input use. The efforts will also be required to allow diversion of land from cereals to non-cereals taking into